

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6719

UNCLAS KUWAIT 5509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AODE, KU

SUBJECT: GOK REQUEST FOR ARMOND LEMKE.

REF: STATE 277326

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF REF WITH DR. B.L. OOSTDAM, PROJECT MANAGER FOR KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (KISR) MARINE POLLUTION PROJECT. OSSTDAM DESCRIBED HIS CONTACTS WHILE IN WASHINGTON WITH MR. LEMKE AND HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. DONALD OAKLEY OF EPA DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO KUWAIT. OSSTDAM NOTED KEEN INTEREST ON KISR'S PART TO OBTAIN LEMKE'S SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH BIOASSAY PORTION OF PRJECT. OOSTDAM IS ACTIVELY PURSUING MATTER WITH SENIOR KISR OFFIALS TO OBTAIN THEIR APPROVAL OF LEMKE ASSIGNMENT AND CONTRACT TERMS. HE SUGGESTS A TENTATIVE ARRIVAL DATE JANUARY 1,1977, THOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS SCHEDULE COULD SLIP SOMEWHAT.

2. OOSTDAM IS CONFIDENT THAT KISR WILL ACCEPT HIS RECOMMENDATION ON LEMKE REIMBURSEMENT TERMS. OOSTDAM REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION TO KISR OFFICIALS:

A) PER DIEM COST-OSSTDAM NOTES THAT OAKLEY PROMISED SOME REDUCTIONS IN \$8,500 FIGURE DISCUSSED ORIGNALLY. OOSTDAM OBSERVED THAT HE COULD NOT SEE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH HIGH RATE, AS HOUSING ETC., IS ALREADY

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BEING PROVIDED SEPARATELY, AND REQUESTS

CLARIFICATION AS TO STATUS OF PER DIEM ITEM.

B) INDIRECT EXPENSES-OOSTDAM RECALLS PROMISE MADE BY OAKLEY TO SUPPLY A MORE DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR \$10,700 ITEM LABELED INDIRECT COSTS (FIGURE IS 40PCT OF DIRECT COST FIGURE). IN PARTICULAR, OOSTDAM REQUESTS CONFIRMATION (IN FORM OF USG REGULATIONS, LEGISLATION, ETC.) THAT FIGURE WAS ARRIVED AT AS A RESULT OF STANDARD POLICY COMMON TO ALL SUCH CONTRACTS, OOSTDAM IS CONCERNED ABOUT MAGNITUDE OF INDIRECT COST FIGURE, AND WANTS TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO KISR MANAGEMENT THAT AMOUNT ARRIVED AT AS A RESULT OF GENERAL USG POLICY.

C) PAYMENT SCHEDULE-OOSTDAM STATED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FROM KISR VIEWPOINT IF PAYMENTS TO LEMKE WERE MADE ON A MONTHLY BASIS, INSTEAD OF A LUMP SUM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE KISR HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT LEMKE'S COMPETENCE, IT WOULD LIKE TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS THAT WOULD PROVIDE GREATER KISR CONTROL OVER QUALITY OF WORK.

3. ON THE ISSUE OF THREE OR SIX MONTHS, OOSTDAM CONFIRMED THAT GOK BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS LIMITED INITIAL LEMKE ASSIGNMENT TO THREE MONTHS, THIS OF COURSE DEPENDING ON TERMS TO BE AGREED. EMBOFF PASSED ON EPA WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT EITHER TIME PERIOD. OOSTDAM ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICS, AND PERSONAL DELAYS (SUCH AS SETTLING INTO NEW HOUSING, OBTAINING SECRETARY, ETC), COULD EAT INTO WORKING TIME, BUT PROMISED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE CLEARED UP BY TIME OF LEMKE'S ARRIVAL. IN ANY CASE, BUDGETARY CONSTRAINT AN INTERNAL KISR PROBLEM AND DOES NOT AFFECT ACCEPTANCE OF LEMKE.

4. ON MATTER OF LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH EPA, OOSTDAM REQUEST A COPY OF PROPOSED EP-KISR AGREEMENT. HE HAS A COPY OF SIMILAR EPA UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT DRAWN UP WITH IRAN, BUT REMEMBERS THAT OAKLEY PROMISED HIM A REVISED COPY DRAWN UP WITH KUWAITI CONDITIONS IN MIND. HE ALSO TAKES NOTE OF CONTENTS OF OAKLEY LETTER OF OCTOBER 8, 1976, AND PROMISES TO DISCUSS WHOLE ISSUE WITH KISR MANAGEMENT. ACCEPTANCE OF LEMKE IS NOT PREDICATED ON SIGNING LONG-TERM AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO OOSTDAM, BUT KISR WOULD WANT TO SEE GROUND RULES

OF CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPT. PASS ON INFORMATION
TO DR. DONALD OAKLEY, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL
TECHNICAL DIVISION, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITIES, EPA. SPECIFIC ATTENTION SHOULD BE
DIRECTED TO OOSTDAM REQUESTS IN PARA 2 ABOVE.
EMBASSY HAPPY TO CONTINUE TO FACILITATE OAKLEY
KISR CONTACTS.
MAESTRONE

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